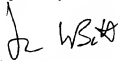


REMARKS

By this response, Applicants have amended claims 26, 38, 45 and 50. As a result, claims 26-50 remain pending in this application. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 26-27, 30, 34-35, 38, and 41-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,216,212 (Challenger); the rejection of claims 28-29, 31-33, and 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Challenger in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,623,529 (Lakritz); and the rejection of claims 36-37, 39-40, and 45-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Challenger in view of Lakritz are moot in view of the amended claims presented herein. For example, Challenger fails to disclose, *inter alia*, the claimed abstraction layer, set of object links, and/or set of project links as in the claimed inventions.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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